

**To:** EOC Liaison[EOC\_Liaison@epa.gov]  
**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Fri 8/14/2015 5:46:01 PM  
**Subject:** FW: EPA R9 Update on GKM

Thanks!

Dean Higuchi

Press Officer/Congressional Liaison/Public Affairs

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**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 09, 2015 9:03 AM  
**To:** Montoya, Ken  
**Cc:** Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Maier, Brent  
**Subject:** EPA R9 Update on GKM

Hi Ken,

Here is the latest R9 Update

Thanks!

Dean

**EPA Region 9 Gold King Mine Spill Response Update – 8/9/15**

## **Region 9 Background**

The discharge has moved quickly and is in the vicinity of the Navajo Nation boundary, near Kirtland, NM. Navajo officials have reacted quickly, assessing their well fields and drinking and irrigation water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service announcement regarding water from potentially impacted sources. Region 9 held a conference call today with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) and Navajo Department of Public Safety.

The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River yesterday - prior to the spill impact. Region 9 provided 2 START contractors and 4 additional personnel are en route to coordinate and conduct increased sample collection and lab analysis in conjunction with NNEPA.

A Region 9 OSC will report to Farmington on Monday to assist. A joint EPA/NNEPA river sampling program has commenced focusing on the San Juan between Shiprock/Hogback, NM area and Mexican Hat, UT and will continue for the foreseeable future. NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes. NNEPA and USEPA drinking water experts agreed to inventory and assess water sources including private wells and intakes.

## **EPA Region 9 STAFFING**

### **Farmington**

Two Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) are deploying to Farmington on Sunday. The CICs will plan to meet with local Navajo Chapter officials and prepare to host public meetings in the coming days. The CICs will partner with NNEPA and NN Department of Public Safety to ensure comprehensive outreach to all affected Navajo Chapters.

1 R9 OSC arriving Monday, 2 more arriving Wednesday

### **Durango**

1 OSC is in the Durango Incident Command Post to coordinate Navajo field activity updates and results

with Region 8. Preparing the R9/R6 incident action plan and staffing the IMT.

The Region has also deployed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango.